

CONVENIENCE ZONE



CONVENIENCE ZONE EXEMPTION / REVOCATION REQUIREMENTS

Under the California Beverage Container Recycling & Litter Reduction Act

This fact sheet provides information for beverage dealers, recyclers and other interested parties regarding convenience zone exemptions or exemption revocations. These guidelines are advisory only and do not replace law pertaining to convenience zone exemptions. Questions relating to convenience zone exemptions or exemption revocations will be resolved by using the provisions of statute and regulation, rather than by the content of these guidelines.

WHAT IS A CONVENIENCE ZONE EXEMPTION ?

A convenience zone exemption is an exception from the requirement that a certified recycling center which accepts all California Refund Value (CRV) containers be established within a convenience zone.

WHICH CONVENIENCE ZONES ARE CONSIDERED FOR AN EXEMPTION?

A convenience zone will be considered for an exemption by any one of the following actions:

- An interested party submits an application form to the Department requesting an exemption.
- The only certified recycling center in a convenience zone becomes decertified. (These zones are referred to as hold zones).
- The convenience zone is newly designated on January 1 (These zones are referred to as new zones).
- The zone within one-half mile of the supermarket which

creates a hold zone, new zone, or a zone for which an application has been submitted. (These zones are referred to as zonemates).

WHEN DOES THE DEPARTMENT GRANT EXEMPTIONS ?

Public comment periods are conducted each quarter (March, June, September, December). The public comment periods allows all interested parties to provide oral and/or written testimony for or against a proposed exemption. After the public hearing, final decisions on zone exemptions are issued by the Department Director. Notices on exemption decisions are mailed to beverage retailers in affected zones, recycling center operators, exemption applicants and any other person upon request.

HOW ARE CONVENIENCE ZONES EVALUATED FOR EXEMPTION?

Each convenience zone must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. A decision to grant an exemption is based on one, or a combination of conditions



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specified in law. These conditions include whether the zone is within a curbside service area which collects CRV containers at least twice a month; whether there is a sufficient number of recycling centers in the area; and whether the volume collected by the last recycler in the zone is below 60,000 containers in the past 12 months.

The Department will consider any testimony submitted in writing during the public comment period when evaluating zone exemptions.

HOW IS THE EXEMPT STATUS OF A CONVENIENCE ZONE REVOKED ?

To revoke a convenience zone exemption, any interested party may submit an exemption revocation application to the Department.

Convenience zones may also be identified by the Department as a result of ongoing monitoring and review. Revocations will be considered by the Department on a quarterly basis. A public comment period is not required prior to revoking an exemption.

To determine if a convenience zone exemption should be revoked, the Department will analyze the conditions which apply to granting exemptions. A zone exemption may be revoked for any one of the following reasons:

- The conditions upon which an exemption was originally based have changed.
- The supermarket designating an exempt convenience zone goes out of business.
- An administrative error voids the conditions on which the granting of an exemption was originally based.

WHO CAN YOU CALL IF YOU NEED AN APPLICATION FORM OR HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS ?

If you wish to obtain an Application for Convenience Zone Exemption or an Application for Exemption Revocation, or seek additional information, please contact the Exemption Unit of the Convenience Zone Section at (916) 322-4867.

